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RWDSU record

RWDSU Board Maps Minimum Wage Law Drive

Congressman James Roosevelt, sponsor of labor-backed bill to extend federal minimum wage coverage and boost floor to $1.25 an hour, is greeted by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg at International Executive Board meeting held in San Juan, Puerto Rico March 30-April 2. See Page 3.

6-Store Firestone Retail Chain Organized in Atlanta

— Page 7

Huge Labor Rally Demands Action By U.S. on Jobless

— Page 2

LABOR RALLY IN CAPITAL HITS IKE 'DO NOTHING' POLICY ON JOBLESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Organized labor last Wednesday turned the nation's spotlight on the plight of the unemployed—and the failure of the Administration to take effective action—in a giant rally which overflowed the National Armory here. Representing the RWDSU was a delegation of more than 100 members and leaders, headed by Pres. Max Greenberg. Biggest delegation was that of District 65 in New York, which has been hard-hit by unemployment. Other sizeable delegations came from Local 1-S in New York, Local 1064 in Detroit, and Local 149 in West Virginia.

A delegation of District 65 members, headed by Organization Director Bill Michelson, had an appointment to meet with Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell to discuss the Administration's attitude on aid to the jobless and on extension of minimum wage legislation.

The National Guard Armory's 5,300-capacity auditorium was unable to hold the huge turnout, with many delegates standing outside. The one-day mass rally was followed up Thursday by a conference of union leaders and legislative representatives on ways to get meaningful legislation to aid the unemployed and to speed up the economic recovery.

Meany Keynotes Rally

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany keynoted the rally with a powerful attack on President Eisenhower's "do-nothing" policy towards the nation's economy and its hard-hit unemployed.

"This is an emergency conference called for the purpose of focusing national attention on America's Number One domestic problem—mass unemployment," Pres. Meany said in opening the rally.

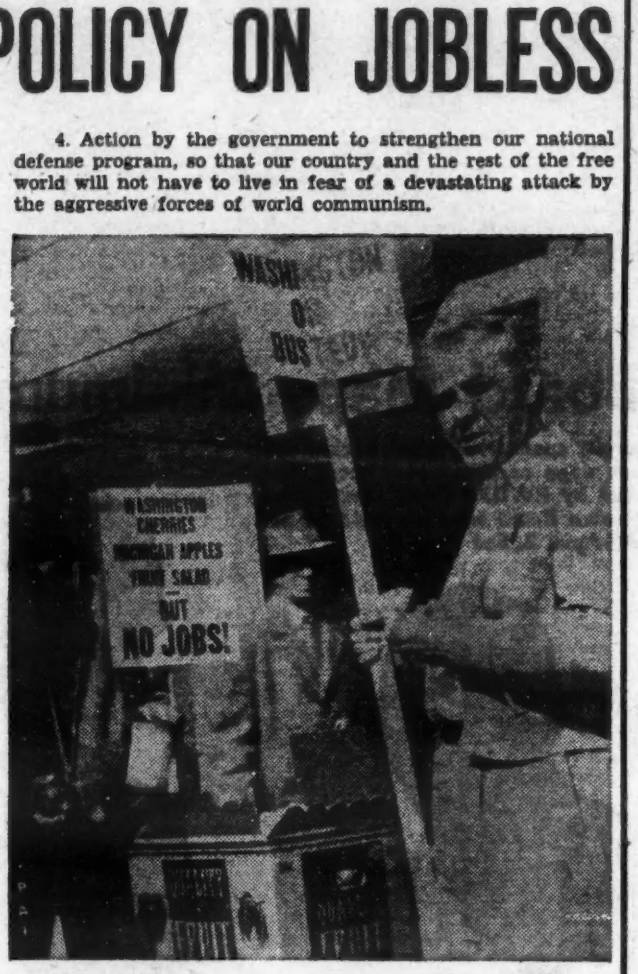
Pres. Meany then answered the question: "What can we do?" He spelled out a four-point program, as follows:

1. Legislation to cushion the shock of the shrinkage of jobs and to safeguard purchasing power.

2. Legislation to launch a vast building program of desperately needed improvements in our country.

3. Action by the trade union movement to secure justified wage increases and to shorten the work week, so as to spread the available supply of jobs.

4. Action by the government to strengthen our national defense program, so that our country and the rest of the free world will not have to live in fear of a devastating attack by the aggressive forces of world communism.



DEPRESSION REMINDER—APPLES AND JOBLESS: Autoworkers in Flint, Mich., take a tip from the depression of the '30s as they sell apples to help pay their way to the AFL-CIO Conference on Unemployment in Washington. Vendors are Persell Hart and Flint CIO Council President Norman Bully, both members of UAW Local 599.

The Bitter Face of Unemployment:

Unemployment is more than a monthly government statistical report; it is people, 4.7 million of them, struggling against the tragedy of joblessness. The New York Times recently conducted a survey of the unemployed, the "people behind the statistics." Here are excerpts from the survey summary:

Unemployment is a figure in a government report as dreary and lifeless as the federal debt or the death rate.

Unemployment is people—the individual hardship and heartache of 4,749,000 Americans, willing and able to work but unable to find suitable jobs.

To put faces on figures, correspondents of The New York Times talked to idle workers and their families in states where unemployment has remained high despite the general pick-up in business.

Their story makes a grey backdrop for reports of higher production, higher sales, higher profits, higher wages and other indices of returning prosperity. It is a story told without bitterness—almost apologetically—even by those who have gone through the last anguishing turn of the wringer and been forced to turn to public relief.

Puzzlement is more apparent than anger in the attitude of men and women who have tramped the streets, month after month, with nothing to show for their efforts but holes in their shoes and a growing pile of debts.

In Detroit, capital of the automobile industry, one worker in seven is jobless and cutbacks in the output of some 1959 models threaten to add thousands to the idle lists in the next few weeks.

Pittsburgh, crossroads of steel and coal production, is worried that large-scale unemployment will become a chronic drag on its economic well-being.

In the mine regions of West Virginia the spectre of permanent pools of idle workers is even more tragically present. Mechanization has cut the need for manpower so drastically that 68,000 men now dig more coal than 125,000 did 10 years ago. The displaced, returning from futile job-seeking expeditions to Cleveland, Columbus or Detroit, are less disposed to be philosophical about their plight than most of the country's uncomplaining unemployed.

Surplus food—"mollygrub" is what they call it in the Kanawha Valley coal fileds—has become a mainstay in the diets of tens of thousands of families, not only in West Virginia but also in every other state.

In December, 5,230,000 persons benefited from the federal dole of butter, flour, corn meal and other surplus commodities. The food lines were almost twice as long as they had been a year earlier.

Yet by the standards of mass misery that prevailed in the great depression of the Thirties, privation is a minor problem. What bears most raspingly on today's jobless is the sense of uselessness that comes with being unwanted and unneeded in the world's richest and most productive nation.

The corrosive effect has been acute among youngsters—high school and college graduates, ex-G.I.'s and others in the 20 to 35 age group—locked in their first real bout with hard times and deprived of the community of suffering that helped preserve the fabric of self-respect in the depression years when everyone was in trouble.

In many ways this was a young man's recession, especially in factory industries operating under rigid seniority systems. The most recently hired were the first to feel the layoff axe. Now science, moving with the same breathtaking speed in the improvement of industrial technology as it is in the conquest of the atom and of outer space, is making the day of recall to work more remote.

The harnessing of electronic brains to mechanical muscles has made it possible to produce more goods with fewer workers. Men with 10, 12 and even 15 years of seniority remain on the surplus list while their companies climb past the production peaks they set in pre-automation days.

There is little tendency to clutch for the comforts of the welfare state. Confronted with the necessity for going on relief, most workers will grab a job at half or less than the standard they used to enjoy. And there are plenty of employers ready to capitalize on this preference for staying independent of a government handout.

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Note on Change of Address

When sending in a change of address to The Record, please make sure to include your old address *as well as the new, and your local's number.*

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Executive Board Hails Progress Reports

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Reports of substantial organizing progress in every area covered by the International union highlighted a four-day meeting of the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union's Executive Board which opened here on March 30. Sec.-Treas. Alvin E. Heaps, in his report on organization, cited drives under way in a score of places throughout the U.S. and Canada. His report was supplemented with detailed summaries by Canadian Director George Barlow, Ass't Southern Director Frank Parker, Regional Directors Gerry Hughes, Al Evanoff and Irving Lebold, Vice-Pres. John Capell and Vice-Pres. Leon J. Davis, whose Local 1199 is leading the biggest organizing drive of all among 35,000 unorganized workers in New York City's voluntary hospitals.

'1199' Pres. Leon Davis reports on N. Y. hospital organizing drive.

The Board sessions were chaired by Pres. Max Greenberg. In a departure from the practice at previous meetings, Pres. Greenberg did not deliver a formal report. Instead, he summarized various phases of the discussion, and supplemented reports on situations in which he had been personally involved. Thus he reported to the Board on the sit-down strike, at 120 Broadway in New York, involving several hundred members of Local 670, which he had been able to settle on a very satisfactory basis within 24 hours. He paid tribute to locals of the Teamsters for their cooperation in respecting the RWDSU picketlines and thus making the settlement possible.

SEC.-TREAS. ALVIN E. HEAPS

EXEC. SEC. JACK PALEY
They Reported on Organizing, Finances to Exec. Board

The opening report at the Board meeting was delivered by Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, who spoke on the financial affairs of the International union. He noted that while the RWDSU's income had gone up during 1958, so had its expenses, chiefly because of a number of organizing drives undertaken during the year. Nevertheless, Paley said, the books showed a surplus of $30,000 for the year. Paley also reported on staff changes, new charters issued and inactive locals that had been dropped since the last Board meeting.

Also reporting at the Board meeting were Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail, who dealt with the campaign to extend coverage under the federal minimum wage law, and 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock, who reported on the successful 1958 COPE campaign and urged full participation in the '59 RWDSU drive.

Rep. Roosevelt Addresses Meeting

A highlight of the Board meeting was an address by Congressman James Roosevelt (Dem., Calif.) who spoke on the AFL-CIO-supported minimum wage bill which he introduced in the House and Sen. John F. Kennedy has introduced in the Senate.

Another guest speaker who appeared before the Board was Gregory Bardacke, executive director of the American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel (Histadrut). His remarks came at the conclusion of an extended discussion on the RWDSU's campaign to raise $100,000 to build a cultural center in Ramat Gan, Israel. The discussion had been kicked off with a report by Jack Paley, who is serving as executive director of the campaign, which noted that many of the largest locals had been slow in getting their drives under way and urged that money be turned in as soon as possible.

Among those who participated in the Histadrut discussion were Vice-Pres. Henry Anderson, who described the Chicago Joint Board's plans to raise its quota as a tribute to the late Jack Greenwald, a founder and leader of the union; Irving Rosenberg of Local 108, who pledged an immediate contribution of $1,000 as a "down payment" on the local's quota; Vice-Pres. Chris Schubert, who turned over checks for journal ads from the three biggest employers in Manitoba—Hudson's Bay Co., Safeway Stores and Ashdown Hardware Co.; and Frank Brown, who described District 65's plans to raise funds among all its members—Christians and Jews alike—as part of its overall efforts to weld greater unity among its members.

Exec. Vice-Pres. Arthur Osman expressed his determination to visit every local in the South and personally lead discussions on the Histadrut drive. Pres. Greenberg summarized the discussion by expressing confidence that the $100,000 goal would be met, to which Bardacke responded by saying that he regarded the RWDSU drive as already having achieved notable success in light of the discussion.

Bardacke informed the Board that Histadrut was so certain that the RWDSU would achieve its quota that construction has already begun on the Ramat Gan cultural center. He noted that the recent heavy increase in immigration to Israel from Rumania and from some of the Arab countries had made the need for educational facilities like the building in Ramat Gan more urgent than ever.

Another important topic of discussion at the Board meeting was raised by Pres. Greenberg when he introduced the subject of united action and possible organic unity with other unions having compatible jurisdiction. The Board authorized Greenberg to appoint a committee to explore the possibilities.

Other actions by the Board included:

- A resolution calling for continued moral and financial support to Local 1199 in its hospital organizing campaign.
- A motion to donate $1,000 to the striking loggers in Newfoundland, who are involved in a struggle for basic rights against a union-busting company and government.
- Approval of plans for the General Council meeting in New York City June 9-11.

'Speedy Recovery' To Dave Livingston

SAN JUAN, P. R.—A special order of business at the RWDSU Executive Board meeting here concerned an absent member—David Livingston, president of District 65. Livingston recently underwent an operation and was still in the hospital in Boston at the time of the meeting. The Board unanimously voted to send him its best wishes for a speedy recovery. Apparently the message had an effect, for Livingston left the hospital and returned to his home in New York a week later.

Roosevelt on Pay Floor Extension: 'We Can Win in '59'

SAN JUAN, P.R.—Congressman James Roosevelt believes that extension of coverage under the minimum wage law can be won this year. That was the gist of his message to members of the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union's Executive Board when he was introduced to them on March 31 by Pres. Max Greenberg. Rep. Roosevelt displayed the winning personality and charm for which his family is famous as he outlined the prospects for the bill that he and Senators Kennedy and Morse have introduced to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"By May 1," he said, "we hope to begin hearings in the House Labor Committee on this bill. These hearings should be brief—we have had more than enough hearings in previous years at which your President Max Greenberg and other labor leaders have appeared to establish beyond doubt the need for this legislation.

"While our bill is for both extension of coverage and the $1.25 minimum, we frankly consider it more important to gain coverage for some 7½ million who are not covered—and that includes about 4,200,000 in retail. We have the votes to get it passed in the House and Senate, but what the President will then do with it, I don't know. We believe we have met all the arguments that management has raised in prior years—we have specifically exempted the 'mama-and-papa' stores—but I suppose the cry that the bill is aimed at them will be raised again this year.

"I hope that we can get away from the cries of 'inflation' and 'socialism' and the other bugaboos that have been used to prevent passage of this bill. It's time we realized that while we boast about our average wage of $2.50 an hour, the Russians are pointing to the millions of Americans who earn 75 cents an hour and making effective use of that in their propaganda.

"You know, the upper crust in our country has been defined as 'just a bunch of crumbs held together by dough.' Well, we want to see to it that these crumbs up above don't stop us from doing something for the people down below."

Rep. Roosevelt had high praise for the work of Kenneth A. Meiklejohn, Washington legislative representative of the RWDSU. He noted that Meiklejohn had rendered valuable assistance in preparing the bill and as liaison between the labor movement and the legislators on Capitol Hill.

Rep. James Roosevelt addresses RWDSU Board meeting. Shown with him are, from left, Exec. Vice-Pres. Arthur Osman, Sec.-Treas. Alvin Heaps and Pres. Max Greenberg.

LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

Huge Profits Played Down As Steel Fights Raises

PITTSBURGH (PAI) — Negotiations between the Steelworkers and Big Steel won't open until the middle of May, but already the industry's propaganda guns are booming and President Eisenhower has thrown a virtual block into any wage boosts that would "compel," as he put it, a steel price rise.

His press conference remarks brought a prompt announcement by U.S. Steel that it would fight a wage boost even if that meant taking a strike.

The statement brought a strong reply from Steelworkers President David J. McDonald, who declared:

"The Steelworkers want nothing more than fair and just consideration from the steel industry. We think the public will agree that we are entitled to such treatment. To the President of the United States and to the American people, I cannot emphasize too strongly: Our union does not want a strike. If a strike does occur, it will be deliberately promoted by the steel industry."

In back of these exchanges lies a year or more of efforts by industry to blame "inflation" on "soft" wage boosts and to paint unions as "monopolies" imposing their will on the corporations for whom their members work. In many ways the coming steel negotiations have become a symbol in this battle to blame labor and so beat it down.

Yet the other side of the picture—inordinate profits, especially in steel—have been played down by the press. These profits have been made possible by what economists call "adminstered prices," which in plainer language, means fixing prices to suit yourself when you have a virtual monopoly in the field.

The story of "administered prices" in steel is not new. Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee has been investigating it. His findings show clearly that the rise in steel prices has been far larger than would have been justified by the rise in wages.

Only the other day he told the Senate that economist Gardiner Means had calculated that last year's wage increases for steel workers cost the companies about $1.75 a ton. Yet they raised prices $6 a ton.

These steel price boosts have meant huge profits for the industry. Last year U.S. Steel operated at barely 60 per cent of capacity, yet its earnings of $301.000,000 were among the highest ever recorded.

N.J. Toll Collectors Win

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (PAI)—The student body of Rutgers University here is being credited with a major assist in the strike victory of New Jersey Turnpike toll collectors, members of Local 1511, State, County and Municipal Employees.

The five-day strike ended after the New Jersey Turnpike Authority agreed to set up grievance machinery, including an arbitration clause. Local leaders called the strike a complete victory. No one was fired despite suspensions and firing threats. The question of wearing union buttons sparked the walkout, although there were other major grievances.

Much newspaper space was given to the fact that Rutgers students were reported acting as strikebreakers. Union officials said that not more than six students actually scabbed and that management had blown up the story to discourage the strikers. Actually, the Rutgers Student Council, by a vote of 13-0, went on record as strongly opposing and "condemning" the practice of strikebreaking on the part of the students. All but one or two of the students then stopped scabbing.

TEXAS HONORS UNIONIST: It was a historic first when retiring Oil Workers' International representative Richard W. Lawrence, l., received resolution passed by Texas Legislature honoring him for lifetime of service to others. Making presentation is legislator D. Roy Herrington, a member of OCAW Local, Port Arthur.

Textile Workers Charge N.C. Mills Import Scabs

RALEIGH, N.C., (PAI)—The Textile Workers Union has filed a complaint with the U.S. Attorney here charging the Harriet-Henderson Mills with violating Federal Law by transporting strikebreakers across state lines.

The complaint, an outgrowth of the bitter strike being waged by the union at the Henderson, N.C., company mills, charged that the corporation had sent "agents into states other than North Carolina, specifically Virginia—persons from without the State of North Carolina—for the purpose of employing these persons to interfere with peaceful picketing by force and the threat of force."

The complaint charged that the imported strikebreakers drove their cars recklessly into the mill and "towards and upon various pickets," that they brandished from the windows of the cars, "firearms, shotguns, pistols, revolvers and other weapons," and that a "strikebreaker fired at some of the pickets who were peacefully picketing."

The complaint further declares that local officials, including the chief of police, deputy sheriffs and state troopers "of whom as many as 144 have been patrolling the area to protect the imported strikebreakers from Virginia, have known of these violations of the law but to date have taken no action against the violators."

The legislation under which the complaint was filed is known as the Byrnes Act and was adopted by Congress in 1936.

It was named after the then Senator James Byrnes, now Governor of South Carolina.

DiSalle Bill in Ohio Fought as Anti-Labor

COLUMBUS, Ohio, (PAI)—Organized labor, which went all-out to help elect Democrat Michael V. DiSalle as Governor of the Buckeye State, is now faced with fighting the chief executive's so-called "labor reform" bill. DiSalle has introduced a labor bill which organized labor has labeled as "punitive."

The Ohio State AFL-CIO Executive Board, meeting here, charged that the proposed bill "is unfortunate, undeserved and does not achieve its stated objectives." Matt DeMore, legislative director for the Ohio State Council of Machinists, said:

"Less than five months ago Ohio voters rejected a so-called 'right to work' measure by the largest margin ever recorded on any issue in this state. Gov. DiSalle opposed 'right to work' while he was campaigning for our votes. Now he comes forth with a proposal that is even more outrageous."

DeMore said that fortunately the Democratic-controlled state legislature "is better informed about labor."

The State AFL-CIO Board cited the following shortcomings in the bill:

1. The bill is one-sided. It does not provide protection against anti-union actions by employers.
2. It would subject union leaders who may be guilty of existing crimes to greater penalties than bank presidents or corporation officials who commit the same crimes.
3. The proposal would prohibit union shop committeemen and stewards from collecting their wages when engaged in legitimate union activities.
4. It would prohibit check-off of union dues.
5. To comply with certain provisions of the bill, union officials would be forced to violate Federal laws pertaining to union welfare funds.
6. It prevents a union officer from buying stock in the company for which he works. This might also jeopardize profit-sharing plans and pension funds that involve membership participation in corporation ownership.
7. It would prevent the wholesome practice of some unions in loaning funds to their employers in order to stay in business.
8. The bill would impose a fantastic penalty of no less than five years and no more than 20 years imprisonment when two or more union members conspire to violate the most minor provision of the Act. Thus, one of the most severe penalties in our law, normally reserved for arsionists and rapists, would be brought to bear on the most insignificant labor activities.

Wants $1.25 Calif. Minimum

SACRAMENTO, CAL., (PAI)—Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown has urged the State Legislature to set a $1.25 minimum hourly wage for all California workers.

The Governor declared that California has lagged too long behind other progressive states "in assuring that all its workers are paid a livable wage and are covered by fair labor standards. Our present law, which covers only women and minors, is archaic and unfair."

AFL-CIO Issues Call for Merit Scholarship Competition

WASHINGTON, (PAI)—A call to high school students in the United States to enter into competition for six $6,000 merit scholarships to be awarded this year has been issued by the AFL-CIO.

The scholarships are being awarded by the AFL-CIO on the basis of examinations by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and will be awarded to students who plan to enter college in September, 1960.

Each scholarship will cover four years of study. Two scholarships will be awarded in each of three geographical sections of the United States. One scholarship in each area will be awarded to children either of whose parents is currently a member of a union affiliated with the AFL-CIO. One scholarship awarded in each geographical area will be unrestricted; i.e., the student may or may not be the child of a trade unionist.

How to Apply: If you are a second semester junior or first semester senior in this 1959 spring semester, you are eligible for participation in the program. The qualifying test will be conducted in all participating high schools on April 28, 1959. There will be an alternate date of May 2, 1959, for testing in those schools that prefer to test on Saturday.

School Participation in the Program: All public, private, and parochial schools are invited to participate in the nation-wide scholarship qualifying examination. Principals enter their schools by registering for this examination with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

In the event your school is not a member of the National Merit Scholarship program, you may participate individually by writing to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation which will attempt to make special arrangements for you.

Who Is Eligible: The high school principal may select second semester juniors or first semester seniors to take the examination free of charge. If a student is not selected by his principal, he may still take the test by paying a $1 fee to cover the cost of administering the test. In hardship cases this fee is waived.

Semi-Finalists: A group of top seniors, the highest scorers on the qualifying test in each state, will be advanced to the semi-finals in September, 1959. They will then be asked to take a Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board at specially designated centers in December, 1959. Full information will be given them at the time of these notifications as to the time, place, and arrangements for this second test.

Finalists: Finalists will be announced in January, 1960, after the scoring of the second examination. They are selected on the basis of scores on the two examinations, school activities and biographical information which they have supplied.

Where and What the Grantee Will Study: Scholarships will be awarded for study at any accredited college or university in the United States. It will be the obligation of the winners to make all arrangements for admission to the school of their choice and to maintain good standing throughout the four-year period of the scholarship.

Strikes Loom At Six N.Y. Hospitals

NEW YORK CITY—A solid front of hospital management defending wages as low as $32 a week confronted the RWDSU's Local 1199 this week, and at presstime strikes at six of the private, non-profit hospitals appeared likely.

Overwhelming votes for strike action were recorded at the six hospitals—Mount Sinai, Beth David, Beth Israel, Bronx Hospital, Brooklyn Jewish and Lenox Hill—by the 3,400 workers, as the managements continued their refusal to recognize Local 1199 and negotiate for improved wages and conditions. The strike deadline is 6 a.m. April 22.

The organizing campaign among some 35,000 hospital workers has met with amazing success over the past four months, with 8,000 workers signed up in '1199' and one contract achieved—at Montefiore Hospital where 1,000 workers won increases of $30 a month over a 18-month period and other gains. Majorities have been achieved at 12 additional hospitals, but the managements have formed a united front in opposition to the union and not one has agreed to recognize Local 1199.

Faced with months of stalling by the managements—and more recently outright refusals to bargain—Local 1199 has reluctantly moved towards strike action.

'No Other Alternative'

"The hospital workers have no other alternative," Local 1199 Pres. Leon Davis declared. "The managements are claiming that they are defending the interests of their patients by refusing to recognize the union, using this argument as a smokescreen to perpetuate slave wages that force thousands of the workers to go on relief.

"We are a responsible union, and we did not come to a decision to strike lightly. We are calling on Mayor Wagner to evacuate the six hospitals so that no patient is endangered. But we will not permit the hospitals to pose the welfare of the patients against that of the workers."

Charbonneau Heads '59' in Worcester

WORCESTER, Mass.—Election of officers of Local 59, made up of employees of the Dapol Plastics Co. here, was held recently, it was announced by Regional Director Thomas J. Leone.

Elected were: President, Tom Charbonneau; Vice President, Angelina Migneault; Secretary-treasurer, James Howe; Recording Secretary, Matilda Campanale; Sergeant-at-Arms, Paul Largesse; and Trustees, Alfred Deschamps and Robert Manna.

$5 Wage Hike, Welfare Gains Won by 8,000 in R. H. Macy Pact

NEW YORK CITY—A three-million-dollar package of wages and welfare and pension benefits for R. H. Macy employees was negotiated on April 1st in what '1-S' Pres. Sam Kovenetsky called "a fine settlement." The two-year agreement at the world's largest department store, overwhelmingly approved by the membership at overflow meetings attended by 7,000 of the 8,000 employees, provides a $5 general wage increase, $3 the first year and $2 the second. Minimum wages were increased by $8, going to $46 to start, and $50 after six months of employment.

Outstanding improvements in the welfare program were also gained, while the pension benefits after 25 years of service were raised from $25 to $35 a month. All terms of the contract are retroactive to Feb. 1, expiration date of the old three-year agreement. It covers the employees of Macy's on Herald Square and four metropolitan branches.

"The gains reflected in this fine settlement are not only in wages, but in working conditions and job security," said Kovenetsky. "The two-year contract gives us an opportunity in these changing times to make early changes in our relationship with Macy's in New York. We have greater freedom now that we have won the battle against the company's insistence on a three-year contract.

Gain in Minimum Wages

"The gain in the minimum wage to $46 and $50 after six months in an industry that has been depressed in wages and inflated in profit shows that the time is right for government backing of the $1.25 an hour minimum wage throughout all industry."

Under the terms of the new Macy agreement, a sum of $50,000 is to be set aside for adjustment of wage inequities. Severance pay will now be available after five years, as contrasted to 10 years previously. And the union now has the right to challenge and take to arbitration changes made in job specifications.

Job security has been strengthened in the new pact, with improvements in recall of employees after layoffs and after reductions in the work force.

Saturday-only employees also benefit by the new pact. They will receive automatic progressions up to 18 months. Another pay improvement is that employees transferred to higher-rated jobs for six hours or more are to receive ten cents an hour over their regular rate. And Sunday telephone order-board workers are to be paid for any Sundays on which the board is closed.

Also boosted was the supper allowance—from $1 to $1.25.

Pension Improvements

Improvements in the welfare program are substantial. In addition to the $10 increase in pension benefits, a new provision permits women to retire at age 62. Retirement, however, is not compulsory. Employees with 13 years' service at age 65 can continue to work until 67 and then retire on pension, also without compulsion.

Sick leave pay under the new contract has been raised to a maximum of $50 for 26 weeks; and payment will also be made for recurring illness as well as on separate illnesses. Employees claiming sick pay whose eligibility is challenged by the company may now take their cases to arbitration. Further, the Health Plan will now also pay for anesthesia.

The 1,000 employees at Macy's Roosevelt Field branch, which is not under contract to the union, will nevertheless receive the same cash benefits as the other 8,000 Macy workers. Local 1-S distributed leaflets to the Roosevelt Field personnel pointing out that these gains were the result of a strong union organization at the five other stores and urging them to join their fellow Macy employees in the union's ranks.

Top Rates at CBS Building

NEW YORK CITY—A new contract providing wage boosts of $13 a week plus other benefits for 26 air-conditioning and heating engineers was negotiated last month with the Columbia Broadcasting System by the RWDSU's Building Service Employees Local 670, it was reported by Business Mgr. Tom Bagley.

The agreement, widely regarded as a model of its kind, lifts wages of the engineers to $123 a week. In addition, they are guaranteed eight hours of overtime at double-time rates of $7.15 an hour. The minimum hiring rate is $115 for the first three months' employment. Helpers receive $110 per week.

The contract also provides three weeks vacation after five years, and four weeks after ten years employment. Sick leave is six months at full pay, and the following six months at half pay. The engineers receive a lump-sum payment of $10,000 upon retirement at age 65.

The CBS contract was negotiated by a committee headed by Bagley and assisted by Pres. Joseph McCarthy of Local 906. Bagley credited McCarthy with a "wonderful job" in helping to achieve the settlement.

1,500 Telephone Answergirls Await Ruling on New Pact

NEW YORK CITY.—An arbitration decision was being awaited on the terms of a new contract covering the 1,500 members of Local 780, Telephone Answering Service Union, it was reported by Pres. I. Jerry Fischer.

Negotiations for the new pact bogged down on March 18 when the local's Executive Board met with a committee representing the employers. The union's demands on wages, working conditions and welfare benefits were presented. The employers made no offer of any kind.

When they refused to set another date for resumption of negotiations, the union asked for immediate arbitration of all issues. At the arbitration hearing March 26 before Impartial Chairman David Bluestone, the union's demands were presented. The employer sought elimination of paid holidays, reduction of welfare benefits and reduction of the minimum wage.

All provisions of the arbitration award will be retroactive to April 1, 1959.

This will be the second contract with the employers group, which represents the bulk of the industry in the five boroughs of New York City.

Organization of the telephone "answergirls" began three years ago in a drive led by Fischer and Dale Buckius, who became a secretary treasurer of the new RWDSU local, the first and only union in New York for these workers.

Serving on the current negotiating committee, in addition to Fischer and Buckius, are Sally Murphy, Barbara Franklin, Margaret Williams, Elizabeth Henderson, Ruth Koller, Lillian McNamara and Elizabeth Lunnie.

Lillian Gagne President of '66' in Leominster

LEOMINSTER, Mass.—Election of officers of Local 66, composed of employees of the Nashua Plastics Co., Nashua, N. H., was announced by Regional Director Thomas P. Leone. Following are Re-elected were Pres. Lillian Gagne, the results:

Vice Pres. Louise Letenders, Sec. Treas. Sally Gorham, Rec. Sec. Vivian Briggs, Sgt.-at-Arms Armand DuBois and Trustee Laura Simard. Lillian Para and Lauretta Levesque are the newly elected trustees.

'RECORD' EDITORS participate in Eastern Labor Press Conference March 21 in the Columbia University School of Journalism. Editor Max Steinbock, fourth from left, at table, is speaking in discussion on effectiveness of labor press. Other Record staff members, to right of Steinbock, are Assistant Editor Robert Dobbs, Managing Editor Bernard Stephens and Assistant Editor Hilbert Elson. Next to Stephens at table is Local 338's Milton Miller.

The Midwest

Mich. GOP Senate Weakens Jobless Aid

Williams, Union Leaders Condemn 'Carrot and Stick' Legislation

LANSING, Mich.—The Republican-controlled Michigan Senate has passed a bill which would deprive thousands of jobless workers of standard unemployment benefits as the price for participation in extension of the federal temporary unemployment compensation program until the new June 30 deadline.

On a straight party division, the Senate voted 20 to 11 for a bill sponsored by Labor Committee Chairman John P. Sweekens which would:

- Force the early retirement of older workers through a provision denying them full unemployment benefits if they were eligible for a pension at the time they were laid off. The amount of the pension for which they are eligible—even if they don't draw it—would be deducted from their state jobless benefits.
- Reverse a recent decision by the Michigan Supreme Court which upheld the right of workers thrown out of work by strikes in other states to collect jobless benefits.
- Add a long list of additional disqualification provisions.

The carrot in the deal was a three-month extension of TUC, which would benefit about 28,000 of Michigan's 364,000 unemployed, and a token $2 increase in maximum family benefits, which state AFL-CIO officials said would help only "a comparative handful" of jobless.

A strong blast at the Sweekens bill by Democratic Gov. G. Mennen Williams set the stage for a battle by Democrats in the House to substitute a simple extension of TUC. The House is almost evenly divided, with Republicans holding a one-vote margin as the result of the death of a Democratic member.

Williams said the Senate bill was "an attempt to take advantage of the distress of unemployed workers."

Pres. August Scholle of the Michigan AFL-CIO and Auto Workers Pres. Walter P. Reuther called for defeat of the Sweekens bill in the House.

Reuther termed it "a devious attempt" to push through "a series of restrictive and punitive measures which the GOP has been unsuccessful in having enacted in years past." He said it would "wreak havoc" with the unemployment compensation law.

Scholle wrote to the presidents of the Big Three auto companies, citing reports that the Michigan Manufacturers Unemployment Compensation Bureau was behind the GOP bill. He urged them to repudiate it and support "'a simple and clear-cut extension" of TUC.

Warehouse Group Joins In Anderson, Ind.

ANDERSON, Ind. — Having voted unanimously for the RWDSU in an election late last month, employees of the Michigan Warehouse Co. here are drafting demands for their first union contract.

The organizing campaign at the warehouse was conducted by Int'l Rep. Al Bregnard, who will also lead the workers in pact negotiations. They will become members of RWDSU Local 357 in Anderson.

IT'S UNANIMOUS! Approval is given by Local 612 Unit B members to offer by Borden Co. in Portsmouth, O. New contract terms provide increased wages, commissions and other improvements for plant's 50 employees. Ratification meeting took place March 30.

Fine New Contract at Borden's in Ohio

PORTSMOUTH, O.—Important gains with large wage and commission increases were won for the 50 employees of the Borden Co. here in a new contract, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Gene Ingles.

The settlement came after a series of nine negotiating sessions with the Local 612 Unit B committee. In the last two meetings, the group was backed up by an affirmative strike vote by the membership. On March 30, the committee recommended ratification of the company's package offer and approval was unanimous.

Terms of the new pact call for plant wage increases of 19 to 24 cents per hour. Four cents of this raise is retroactive to Feb. 1, with the balance due on June 1. This arrangement, Ingles pointed out, will permit the company to reduce present overtime.

Monthly commission increases of $10 for wholesale-retail salesmen are also provided. And route out pay is increased by 11%.

Additional paid days off are provided, too; nine more for ice cream route salesmen, and three more for retail-wholesale salesmen.

The union negotiating committee, led by Ingles, included: Unit B Chairman Jim Williams, Unit Sec.-Treas. Don Sylvia, Mose Humphries, Ed Mays, Dick Scott, Orvil Wolfe, Jack Tipton, Vern Hauld and Paul White.

THEY LED NEGOTIATIONS for Local 612 Unit B that resulted in new improved contract with Borden Co., Portsmouth, O. Seated, l. to r., Mose Humphries, Ed Mays, and Dick Scott. Standing, Orvil Wolfe, Jack Tipton, Chairman Jim Williams, Sec. Treas. Don Sylvia, Vern Hauld and Paul White.

Biggest Hotel In Indianapolis Goes RWDSU

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—The largest hotel in Indianapolis will soon bear the RWDSU label, according to all indications.

With an overwhelming majority of the 350 workers of the Claypool Hotel signed up, the RWDSU has filed a petition with the NLRB for a representation election, Regional Director Jerry Hughes reported.

"The prospects for victory look very good indeed," Hughes said, explaining that the setting of an election date would be delayed as the NLRB Regional office is currently in the midst of moving to new offices.

All categories of employees of the Claypool, the largest hotel in Indianapolis, are covered in the RWDSU petition: service, housekeeping, maintenance, kitchen and dining room. They were organized in a drive led by Int'l Rep. Joe Romer.

The RWDSU made an earlier attempt to organize the Claypool employees five years ago. It was stymied by the intervention of another union. This organization became involved subsequently in complex litigation with the hotel management. When the situation was cleared up last Fall, the RWDSU came back on the scene and began its successful drive. It is now the only union in the picture at the hotel.

Ohio Employers Move to Block SUB Benefits

COLUMBUS, Ohio, (PAI).—Unemployed Ohio workers, scheduled to receive supplemental unemployment benefits effective June 19, may be denied the funds due to legal efforts of an employer's group.

The Ohio Information Committee, which has made a career of opposing SUB, has announced that it will challenge the constitutionality of the program in the courts.

This will probably mean a delay in the effective date of the program even if their efforts should fail.

Elmer F. Cope, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio AFL-CIO said, "It was bad enough when the legislature failed to pass SUB as an emergency measure, but for the OIC to resort to more delaying tactics is piling injustice upon injustice."

Labor's determined campaign for legislation allowing an unemployed worker to receive SUB at the same time he receives state compensation became law after the measure was signed by Gov. Michael DiSalle.

In signing the bill, DiSalle said it was a "long-delayed measure" which carries into effect "a principle which I feel is esential to the system of American free enterprise."

Unionist-Mayor Has Impressive Record

OSSAWATOMIE, Kansas (PAI) — A veteran trade unionist is giving this city of 5,000 one of its best administrations as mayor.

L. E. Teeter, an honorary life member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division 336, is now serving his second three-year term.

Under his leadership the city has made major strides in water-improvement, new fire equipment and power generator. They were financed by revenue bonds. Ossawatomie has the distinction of having the lowest tax levy of any city in the state with a population of 5,000 or more.

Teeter retired January 1, 1958 as an engineer on the Missouri. His father and grandfather were also railroad men.

ELECTION DATE at the Better Made Dairy in Athens, Ga., is being awaited with special interest by this group among the 60 workers at the plant. Members of the organizing committee, they are, l. to r.: Guy Tiller, Ed Fartner, Cleveland Calle, Vernon Smith and Billy Patman, chairman. Another member, Johnny Maxie, is not in picture.

A&P in Tenn. Found Guilty of Coercion Against Union Drive

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., Inc., has been found guilty by the National Labor Relations Board of restraint and coercion of employees in connection with a representation election in nine stores in this area a year ago.

As the NLRB trial examiner issued this finding, the RWDSU intensified its "Don't Buy" campaign, further whittling down A & P's business in this part of eastern Tennessee, Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn reported. The consumer protest against the chain's wave of anti-union firings, demotions and discrimination against RWDSU members was launched successfully a month ago with the distribution of 100,000 union leaflets.

"The NLRB findings show that justice moves slowly but surely," Rosenhahn said. He noted that the trial examiner's findings and recommendations are completely the opposite of what the store managers told the employees on April 1 —that A & P had been cleared of all unfair labor practice charges.

The major NLRB recommendation is that the representation election held in April 1958 among employees of the nine A & P stores be set aside because of the company's unfair practices, and that a new election be held at such a time "that circumstances permit a free choice of a bargaining representative."

"We will now have the opportunity to run with the ball again," said Rosenhahn. "This time, the game will be played according to the rules under the law and watched by the critical eyes of Uncle Sam. So we're going to carry the ball the united way."

Action On Firings

While finding the company guilty of interfering with their employees' rights to organize, the NLRB trial examiner dismissed the union's complaint regarding the firing of five workers — Murl Householder, Obia Underwood, Albert Turpin, Fred Hummel, Jr. and Frank Baker.

RWDSU attorneys are filing exceptions to this section of the NLRB report. "We are confident," said Rosenhahn, "that there is sufficient evidence to warrant reinstatement with all lost wages."

Additional charges filed by the union on behalf of nine other employees who were victims of A & P management's union-busting plot are currently being investigated by an NLRB agent.

Distribution of the "Don't Buy" leaflets is continuing meanwhile at the gates of industrial plants in the area and in front of five A & P stores. Cooperating in the campaign are top labor leaders in Knoxville, Oak Ridge and Alcoa. Union members are being made aware of A & P's union-busting activities and are also contributing to a fund for the relief of the 14 fired employees.

Consumer response to the union's campaign has been strong. Gross sales at the A & P stores are down sharply, and indications are that they will continue to slide as the drive takes its full toll.

7-Store Firestone Chain Organized in Atlanta, Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga.—The 34 employees of the seven retail stores and the re-tread shop of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. here are now represented by the RWDSU. In an election held March 24, they voted for the union, 13 to 10 in the stores, and six to three in the shop, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Guy Dickinson.

Negotiations for their first contract were to start April 14. Serving on the committee for the stores are: J. B. Wiley, Jack Gordy and Ernest Greer. On the committee for the shop are Paul Fergerson, N. J. Barswell and George Bruce.

Originally, the RWDSU petition covered both the stores and the re-tread shop employees as one unit; but in order to obtain the employer's consent for the election, the shop was separated from the stores for the purposes of the election.

Claussen Bakery Reorganized In Charleston

CHARLESTON, S. C. — The Claussen Baking Co., where an RWDSU campaign was thwarted by unfair labor practices in 1955, is being successfully reorganized by the union, Int'l Rep. Larry Larsen reported.

With 90% of the approximately 40 workers signed up, a forthcoming representation election is expected to make Claussen's a union shop. "The workers feel very confident that we are going to win this election," Larsen said.

A victory at the polls for Local 15-A will mark the first time any union has broken through in the baking industry in Charleston, Larsen noted. It will open the door to further organization in the city, he added.

The current drive was begun three months ago, involving house-to-house visiting. The results have been excellent, ending in what Larsen called "a crack-through of the iron curtain" at Claussen's.

In 1955, in the union's first organizing effort there, three workers were fired for union activity. Charges were filed against the company, and a "don't-buy" campaign by the union followed. One worker was ultimately reinstated with full back pay, and the company was ordered to stop interfering with its employees right to join a union of their choice.

Warehouse Group Wins Welfare Plan In Bessemer, Ala.

BESSEMER, Ala.—A victory on the principle of welfare coverage has been scored for the benefit of the 20 employees of the J. C. Curry grocery warehouse here.

Since the inception of the Southeastern Health and Welfare Plan two years ago, this RWDSU unit has been seeking to obtain coverage from Curry. But the company persisted in its position that this aspect of labor relations was not the employer's responsibility, Ass't Area Director Frank Parker explained.

The Curry workers are the kind of group that the SHWP was set up to serve, and in recent negotiations coverage was fixed as the major union goal. Led by Alabama RWDSU Council Org. C. T. Daniels, a committee succeeded in changing the employer's views on welfare plans.

The new agreement calls for the company's weekly contributions of $2.40 for each employee, providing for hospitalization for members and their families, sick benefits and life insurance.

5 to 10c Pay Hikes Scored At S. H. Kress in Bessemer

BESSEMER, Ala.—Wage boosts of 5 to 10 cents an hour are provided in a one-year contract renewal recently negotiated by the RWDSU with the management of the S. H. Kress variety store here. Also won by the union was company checkoff of dues for the store's 35 employees.

All workers in the Bessemer store with one year or more of service—and they are in the majority—received a 10-cent raise; while those with under one year of service got 5 cents.

Vacation Beef Won By Miami Salesmen

MIAMI, Fla.—Salesmen in the four Ben-Hil Shirt Shops here have won almost $200 in back vacation pay as a result of a settlement worked out by their union, RWDSU Local 1010, with management prior to a scheduled arbitration.

Last summer, when the salesmen received their first vacations under their first contract, the company arbitrarily paid each employee a flat $75 in vacation pay for each week, instead of average earnings as provided in the contract.

This grievance was brought to the Ben-Hil management and when it stalled, the union called on the American Arbitration Association to decide the issue. At this point, the union met with the chain's president and worked out an agreement.

Southern Workers Step Up Political Action

WASHINGTON—Political prophets who would like to make a name for themselves should keep an eye on the South, where labor is showing intense interest in political action—and in performance by officials elected last November. That was the summation of the first of the 1959 COPE area conferences by National COPE Director James L. McDevitt.

Held annually, the COPE area conferences this year have been scheduled to bring them even closer to the grass roots. Instead of the usual eight or nine conferences, COPE staffers this year are holding 20 meetings across the country.

McDevitt's prediction was based in part on the turnout at conferences in Huntington, W. Va.; Raleigh, N.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Baton Rouge, La.; and Memphis, Tenn.

"We were expecting groups of between 150 and 175." he said. "Instead we had turnouts of over 300 in every instance and in Louisiana over 400 attended. It was particularly heartening to me to see the attention and enthusiasm. I've never seen anything like it in the South before and I believe it holds more promise of effective action than at any time in recent years."

Topics covered include: why labor is in politics; where we stand today; the basic requirements for effective action; and the job ahead. For most of the conference the delegates are divided into small groups to facilitate discussion.

At the end of the session, questions dropped into a question box throughout the conference are handled.

"The issues in the southern states are the same issues that concern people in the rest of the country," McDevitt noted. "They are concerned about unemployment, raising the minimum wage, the attacks on our unions and the right to organize, and the lack of effective leadership on the part of the national administration.

"They're patient now but unless they get something from this Congress they're not going to be so patient next election time. That's not a threat. That's a simple statement of fact."

The second series of conferences, which started April 4 in Phoenix, Ariz., will include San Diego, Calif.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Cedar Rapids, Ia.; and Kansas City, Mo.

A third swing will take in Springfield, Ill.; Cleveland, O.; South Bend, Ind.; and Providence, R.I. The concluding sessions cover New England and the Pacific Northwest with the final conference scheduled for Seattle, Wash. at the end of June.

Canada

Top Pact Won in Regina At Two Hardware Firms

REGINA, Sask.—The biggest wage raise won for the employees of the Marshall Wells Hardware and the J. H. Ashdown Hardware Companies in Regina since these units were organized several years ago was negotiated recently.

The new agreement between Local 454 and the two companies took eight months to reach. It calls for increases averaging almost $20 a month for the first year and better than $10 for the second, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Len Wallace.

It is expected that this record wage settlement will set the pattern for agreements with branches of these companies in Saskatoon, whose employees are members of Local 480.

"The goal in our negotiations," Wallace explained, "was to eliminate the spread between wage rates paid in grocery warehouses in this area and in the hardware companies. And to quite a degree, we were successful. Before the new agreement, grocery warehousemen were receiving as much as $20 more. This has now been reduced to less than $10 in the highest differential. In other cases the differential has been entirely wiped out."

In addition to wage increases, Wallace added, several important gains were made in the general terms of the agreement, and it is now comparable to "the best in the Province."

Members of the negotiating committee were: Mike Homeniuk, Glenn Roluffs, Kuzma, Ingham, A. Ashcroft, R. R. Meggeson and Barry W. Edmunds, assisted by Wallace.

10% Wage Boost At B.C. Co-op

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A general wage increase of 10% has been won by the 60 employees of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Cooperative, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Bud Hodgins. Additional adjustments for meat cutters to bring their rates in line with those prevailing in the rest of the industry were also negotiated.

The one-year agreement with Local 580 brings the wages of the Prince Rupert workers up to $62.50 a week for female clerks and $77 for male clerks. This is in contrast to the $41 and $60, respectively, in effect before union organization two years ago.

Three-week vacations after five years was also provided by the agreement. The time when the company begins paying half the cost of the medical plan was reduced. And a guarantee was given that no more than ten students—12 during vacation periods—would be employed at the store at one time. Assurance was further provided that the time worked by management officials would be limited.

100 Members Added to '755' After Winnipeg Dairy Vote

WINNIPEG, Man.—A draft for their first RWDSU agreement is being prepared by a committee of employees of the Crescent Creamery, Ltd., following a Local 755 election victory there last month.

The vote was 50 to 40 for the union. Seven part-time employees of the creamery were ruled ineligible to vote, but the Manitoba Labor Relations Board included them in the bargaining unit, Business Agent G. Ritchie reported. The election victory thus adds more than 100 new members to local 755.

Singled out by Ritchie for special mention for their "terrific assistance" in the pre-election campaign were Sid Hunter, Dennis Henrie and Bob Deacon. Hunter was appointed recording secretary of Local 755 to fill the vacancy in that post. Henrie and A. Farley were elected by the Crescent employees to represent them on the local's executive board.

A. Guzda was elected steward to represent the sales staff.

Serving on the negotiating and amendment committee: Hunter, Farley, Henrie, and A. Gaudes. They have been meeting to draft an agreement that will be presented to the company after approval by the employees.

A proposed agreement covering the 15 employees of the Fuel Dept. has been submitted to the management of the Red River Co-op Store, Business Agent G. A. Ritchie reported. A majority of the employees joined Local 468 at a meeting of the local. W. King, who assisted Ritchie in the organizing campaign, was elected chairman; Art McFee, vice chairman, and Dale Collins, recording secretary.

$10 Monthly Raise Won At Campbell's in Sask.

SASKATOON, Sask.—The employees of Campbell, Wilson & Millar here received a $10 monthly wage increase as a result of recent negotiations between the company and RWDSU Local 480, Int'l Rep. Len Wallace reported. The classification of truck driver was raised a further $10. All increases are retroactive to Aug. 1, 1958.

A gain was also won in the vacation schedule, giving three weeks to employees after five years of service. Members of the negotiating committee were P. F. Schaan and G. H. Knudsen, assisted by Wallace.

Unit of Tom Boy Chain Organized in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Local 535 of the RWDSU has applied for certification on behalf of the six employees of Lyons Fine Foods in Prince Rupert, Int'l Rep. Bud Hodgins reported.

This store, part of the Tom Boy chain, was organized with the assistance of the Prince Rupert Co-op members.

40 from RWDSU at Man. Institute

WINNIPEG, Man.—The largest delegation to the Education Institute of the Canadian Labor Congress, scheduled for this city April 11 and 12, was that of the RWDSU.

Over 40 of the union's representatives were to attend the annual institute, Int'l Rep. Chris Schubert reported.

The program courses listed were: Union Administration and Parliamentary Procedure; Job of a Shop Steward; Grievance Procedure and Law; Collective Bargaining; Economics and Automation; Workmen's Compensation; Social Security and Community Services; and Political Education.

CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE and fur-hatted provincial police attack striking IWA loggers at Badger, Newfoundland. This and other anti-union measures by provincial Premier Joseph Smallwood led to denunciation of his action by Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

CLC Launches $1 Million Fund Drive for Loggers

By H. G. HOWITH

OTTAWA (CPA)—The Canadian Labor Congress has launched a national campaign to support the striking Newfoundland loggers, president Claude Jodoin announced here. Object is one dollar per member by May 31. The CLC has about 1,150,000 members, so the target is over $1,000,000.

"The struggle of the Newfoundland loggers has become more than a strike involving a single union," Pres. Jodoin said. "It has become a fundamental issue involving basic human rights. The legislation which has been adopted by the government of Newfoundland is a violation of the democracy which is sacred to Canadians and to other peoples of the free world. It is a threat, not only to the free labor movement, but to everyone who values the freedom of the individual."

M. Jodoin added that persons outside the trade union movement "will also be anxious to participate."

Meanwhile, Newfoundland Premier Joseph Smallwood announced that he would amend one of the pieces of anti-labor legislation through the Liberal-dominated House of Assembly with the support of the tiny Tory opposition.

The amendment is to the act giving the lieutenant-governor in council (the cabinet) the power to dissolve a union if union leaders have been convicted of "heinous crimes." The change, which Mr. Smallwood said was suggested by federal Liberal M.P., J. W. Pickersgill, would require the attorney-general of the provinces to "prove" in the Supreme Court of the province that union leaders had in fact been convicted of the "heinous crimes."

The new amendment, commented CLC Pres. Jodoin, indicates that Smallwood is "retreating in the face of widespread criticism, in that province and in Canada as a whole, of his anti-labor program."

The president noted that this is the second time Smallwood "has been forced by the pressure of public opinion to amend the legislation since it was introduced, in an atmosphere of hysteria, in the House of Assembly.

"The best amendment that could be made would be to rescind that legislation completely," Jodoin stated.

Smallwood Attacks Fund

The Newfoundland premier also attacked the strike and defense fund set up by the CLC to aid the loggers, claiming there is no longer a strike.

"The CLC has noted without surprise the further intemperate remarks of Mr. Smallwood with respect to the appeal to aid brother unionists suffering under the oppression of the government of Newfoundland," Jodoin said.

In the meantime, support for the loggers continues to grow all across Canada, as pledges of financial and moral aid increase. In British Columbia, the provincial executive of the CCF party called on all members and the general public to support the fund campaign.

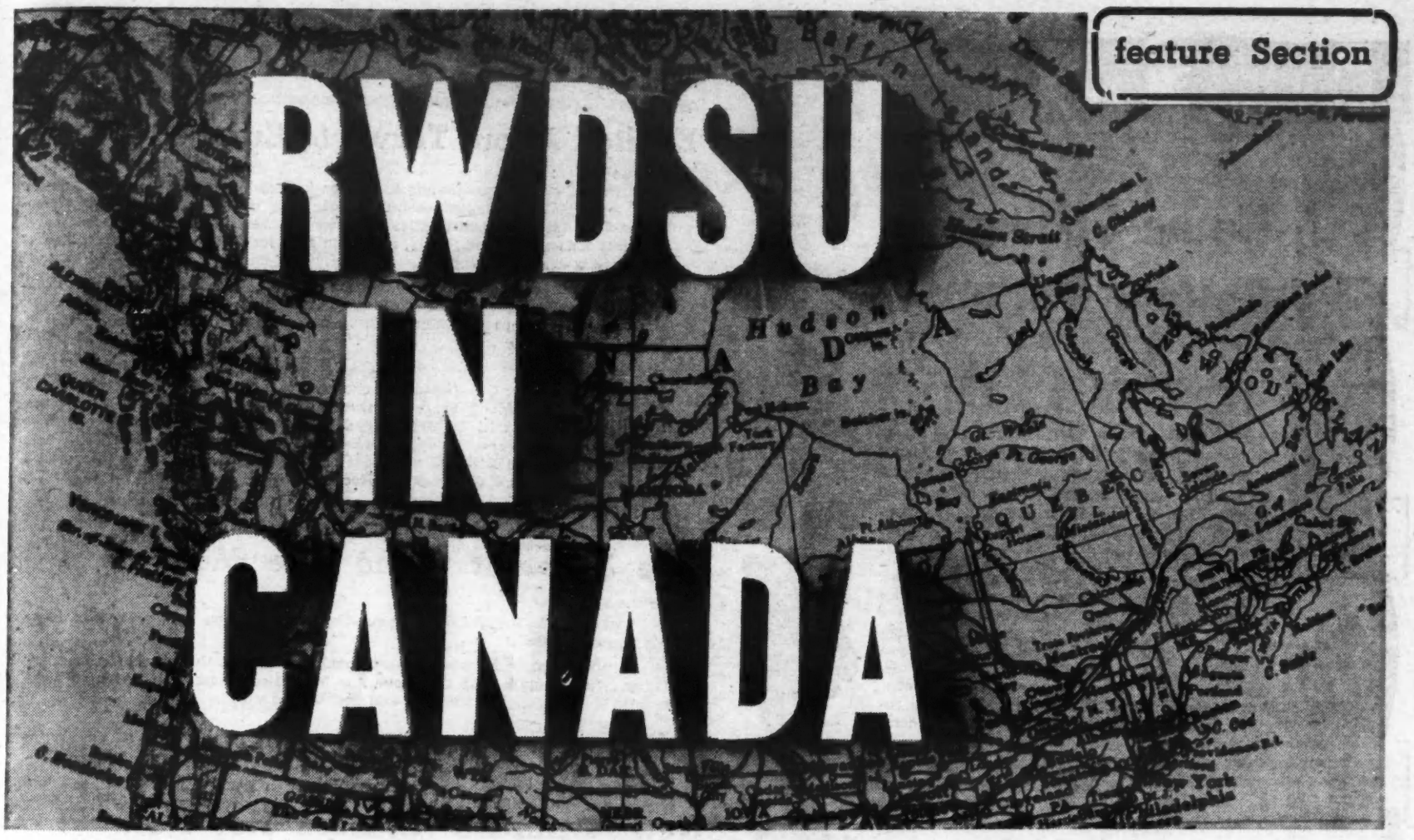
Premier Smallwood, said the B.C. CCF, was playing "lackey" to "this foreign corporation" (the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company), and "it is not too much to say that premier Smallwood's action smacks altogether too strongly of incipient fascism and the corporate state."

Premier Smallwood continues to battle on another front—his dispute with the Diefenbaker federal government over the question of provincial grants. Although the premier ordered the black crepe removed from public buildings in the island province (he had declared "'state mourning"), he kept up his barrage by offering to resign his office, since he believed that Mr. Diefenbaker held "a grudge" against him.

The Prime Minister dismissed that as "imagination," and invited Mr. Smallwood to see him when he comes to Ottawa shortly to address the local Canadian Club.

feature Section

RWDSU IN CANADA



"Canadian Labour," CLC Magazine, Hails a Fast-Growing Union

The rate of growth of the Canadian membership of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, AFL-CIO-CLC, in recent years is regarded in Dominion labor circles as a remarkable development.

This is the subject of a featured article in the April issue of "Canadian Labour," the official journal of the Canadian Labor Congress, the organization of the merged labor movement in the Dominion. In that issue, which pays tribute to the retail and wholesale industries of Canada, the origins and progress of the RWDSU are traced, with emphasis on the recent organizational advances of the union.

At the start of 1956, the number of Canadian RWDSU members was 9,000. In December, 1957, it had grown to 14,000. And today, the Canadian membership stands at well over 16,000, distributed throughout seven of the ten Dominion Provinces—Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Newfoundland, and, most recently, New Brunswick. More than half the membership is in Ontario, numbering close to 10,000.

The RWDSU is one of the fastest-growing labor organizations in Canada, but there is no complacency on this score among the union's leadership, from Canadian Director George Barlow on down through the ranks of his staff. For they are perfectly aware that there is still a vast number of unorganized workers in the jurisdictions granted to the RWDSU by the old Canadian Congress of Labor in 1945, and later by the Canadian Labor Congress.

Yet the figures reflecting the speed of growth are undeniably impressive. Between April and July of 1958, the Dominion membership increased by more than 1,000. This rate of expansion had been matched in an eight-month period of the previous year, 1957, when the Dominion ranks swelled by about 2,000.

Nearly 1,000 Workers Under Organization

In addition to the present number of 16,000 workers in the Canadian locals of the RWDSU, there are, it must be remembered, nearly a thousand more in shops currently under organization.

The notable success of the RWDSU in Canada is attributed by Director Barlow to three principal factors:

1. The fine relationship and cooperation the RWDSU has received from other labor organizations, particularly the Steelworkers, Rubber Workers, Auto, Textile, and the Canadian Labor Congress itself.

2. The changes and additions in the full-time staff of the union which brought from the ranks some of the most mature and active leaders of locals in various areas.

3. The devotion of local leaders and rank-and-file members in all sections of Canada.

A striking illustration of the speedy expansion of the RWDSU is provided in the Maritime Provinces. From 56 members in one local in 1956, the union has grown to over 1,000 in five locals. And with applications pending before the various Labor Relations Boards in the Maritimes, Barlow estimates the membership there could hit 1,500 within a short period.

Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba are three other areas where notable increases are expected, with successful organizing drives in progress there.

In the administrative setup of the RWDSU, there are four major regions, based on broad geographical divisions: New England, the South and the Midwest in the United States; and Canada. In recognition of the importance of the Canadian Region in the International Union, Barlow and Int'l. Rep. Chris Schubert of Manitoba were elected vice-presidents of the RWDSU at the International Convention in Chicago last June. The staff of the RWDSU in the Dominion has grown along with its membership. Every member of the staff, Barlow points out, is a Canadian who has come up from the ranks. This carries out a policy which has been followed since the inception of the Canadian RWDSU.

Besides its growth in membership, Barlow stressed, the RWDSU in Canada has, so to speak, grown up in the labor movement, "to the point where we are at all times prepared to accept our responsibilities and participate fully in the activities of the movement in Canada."

The cordial and fraternal relationship between the RWDSU and its sister unions in Canada is paralleled by the mutual respect and cooperation between its own organization and its parent body, the Canadian Labor Congress.

RWDSUers in Leading Labor Spots

At the last two conventions of the Ontario Federation of Labor, Barlow has been elected to the post of vice-president. In Nova Scotia, RWDSU Int'l Rep. John Lynk is a vice-president of the Provincial Federation of Labor. One of the union's representatives in British Columbia, Ray Haynes, is a vice-president of the B.C. Federation of Labor. And Int'l Rep. Walter Smishek is a vice-president of the Saskatchewan Federation. Smishek, in addition, represents the RWDSU on the CLC Political Education Committee.

Lynk and Business Agent Mickey MacDonald of Local 596 are both members of the Nova Scotia CCF Provincial Executive. MacDonald is also the CCF member of the Legislative Assembly for Cape Breton. In Manitoba and British Columbia, Int'l Reps. Chris Schubert and Bud Hodgins are active in the CCF movement.

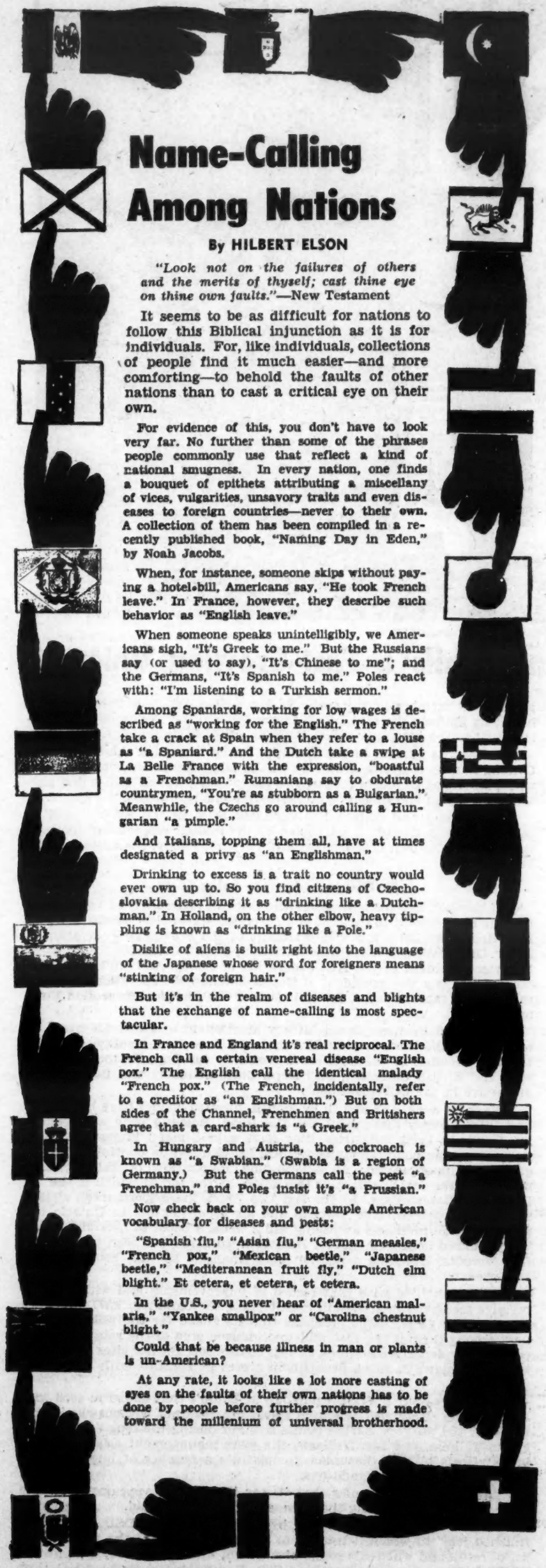
Week by week, and month by month, forward strides have been made by RWDSU locals throughout the Dominion. Keeping pace with changing trends in their industries, they have gained many improvements in wages, working conditions and welfare benefits, while continuing to organize the unorganized. An outstanding illustration of this development is in the retail section of the union, at the top of which is the big Dominion Stores chain. In the last two years the supermarket chain's master contract covering Toronto and six other centers in Ontario has provided wage increases averaging $10 a week, a boost of over 20%. Similarly marked improvements for Dominion workers have been won in welfare benefits, including a pension plan financed by the company and employees.

While gratified with that record of improvements and with the impressive membership growth in recent years, the Canadian RWDSUers are keenly aware of the large problems that lie ahead for the union. Prominent among them is the vast, still-unorganized area of the retail industry, particularly department stores. In this connection, Barlow cites as a major target the giant T. Eaton department stores in Toronto, with 20,000 employees.

The three-year RWDSU campaign at Eaton's that ended in 1952 with a loss in the election by less than 1,000 votes was not without significant gains for the workers, Barlow points out. For during the long drive, led by Eileen Tallman and Len Williams, the store management was compelled, in its efforts to stop the union, to institute a number of improvements in wages and working conditions.

"And the workers know that it was the union's appearance on the scene that helped to bring them these gains," Barlow said.

Eaton's is therefore regarded by the Canadian RWDSU as "an unfinished job," to which it intends to return. It is one of the names on a list of retail and wholesale companies which, when organized, will put the RWDSU among the very largest of Canadian unions. And George Barlow and his staff are confident that that is what is in store for the RWDSU in the Dominion.



Name-Calling Among Nations

By HILBERT ELSON

"Look not on the failures of others and the merits of thyself; cast thine eye on thine own faults."—New Testament

It seems to be as difficult for nations to follow this Biblical injunction as it is for individuals. For, like individuals, collections of people find it much easier—and more comforting—to behold the faults of other nations than to cast a critical eye on their own.

For evidence of this, you don't have to look very far. No further than some of the phrases people commonly use that reflect a kind of national smugness. In every nation, one finds a bouquet of epithets attributing a miscellany of vices, vulgarities, unsavory traits and even diseases to foreign countries—never to their own. A collection of them has been compiled in a recently published book, "Naming Day in Eden," by Noah Jacobs.

When, for instance, someone skips without paying a hotel bill, Americans say, "He took French leave." In France, however, they describe such behavior as "English leave."

When someone speaks unintelligibly, we Americans sigh, "It's Greek to me." But the Russians say (or used to say), "It's Chinese to me"; and the Germans, "It's Spanish to me." Poles react with: "I'm listening to a Turkish sermon."

Among Spaniards, working for low wages is described as "working for the English." The French take a crack at Spain when they refer to a louse as "a Spaniard." And the Dutch take a swipe at La Belle France with the expression, "boastful as a Frenchman." Rumanians say to obdurate countrymen, "You're as stubborn as a Bulgarian." Meanwhile, the Czechs go around calling a Hungarian "a pimple."

And Italians, topping them all, have at times designated a privy as "an Englishman."

Drinking to excess is a trait no country would ever own up to. So you find citizens of Czechoslovakia describing it as "drinking like a Dutchman." In Holland, on the other elbow, heavy tippling is known as "drinking like a Pole."

Dislike of aliens is built right into the language of the Japanese whose word for foreigners means "stinking of foreign hair."

But it's in the realm of diseases and blights that the exchange of name-calling is most spectacular.

In France and England it's real reciprocal. The French call a certain venereal disease "English pox." The English call the identical malady "French pox." (The French, incidentally, refer to a creditor as "an Englishman.") But on both sides of the Channel, Frenchmen and Britishers agree that a card-shark is "a Greek."

In Hungary and Austria, the cockroach is known as "a Swabian." (Swabia is a region of Germany.) But the Germans call the pest "a Frenchman," and Poles insist it's "a Prussian."

Now check back on your own ample American vocabulary for diseases and pests:

"Spanish flu," "Asian flu," "German measles," "French pox," "Mexican beetle," "Japanese beetle," "Mediterannean fruit fly," "Dutch elm blight." Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

In the U.S., you never hear of "American malaria," "Yankee smallpox" or "Carolina chestnut blight."

Could that be because illness in man or plants is un-American?

At any rate, it looks like a lot more casting of eyes on the faults of their own nations has to be done by people before further progress is made toward the millenium of universal brotherhood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excited About Travel to Europe

To the Editor:

The prospect of vacationing in Europe is certainly an exciting one. I think it is wonderful that unions—especially our own union—are concerning themselves with vacation opportunities for their members. Until now, foreign travel was just a dream for my family, and I am sure for many others like us. Now it is becoming a real possibility.

If you can get a big enough group together to charter a plane and arrange a 30-day tour for under $750 you will be doing a great thing. I only hope I can be one of those lucky ones making the trip either this fall or next year.

INA D. COBLENTZ
New York City

(Editor's Note: Questionnaires are now being sent by The Record to all those who inquired about group travel to Europe. On the basis of these questionnaires, it will be determined whether a large enough group can be assembled on a specific date to justify arranging a charter tour. There is still time for more RWDSU members who are interested to get informaion and questionnaires. Just write The Record's Travel Dept., 132 West 43 Street, New York 36, N. Y.)

One Vote for Stone Age Man

To the Editor:

I was deep in thought over the question of how far we have progressed since the Stone Age Man.

As far as wars are concerned, my conclusion is that the only difference between him and us is that the Stone Age Man used stones with which to fight and we may use nuclear weapons and destroy the world.

GREAT PROGRESS!

MRS. KATIA SPELOTTI
Queens, New York

New Members' Classes Not New

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the full-page spread on "65 Classes: New Members Learn About Their Union" in the March 1st issue of The Record. The article starts with, "A new approach to the problem of educating union members got its first tryout last month and was pronounced an outstanding success by teachers and students alike."

Please be advised that Local 1-S, made up of R. H. Macy employees, has had successful, regularly-scheduled new members' classes for the past EIGHT YEARS. The new members at these classes are given a background of the labor movement, the local's history and services, and their rights and benefits under our contract. It is at the end of these classes that they are presented with their union card and pin.

It was only after so many people commented: "What do they mean by 'new approach' and 'first tryout'" that I was prompted to write you.

I would appreciate if you will be so kind as to print this letter in the next issue of The Record to clarify the minds of our membership.

MILDRED KNISKA
New York City

One Vote Against Water Fluoridation

To the Editor:

In your March 1st issue there was an article which states that the AFL-CIO backs fluoridation of water supplies in order to prevent tooth decay. Listening to Dr. Carlton Fredericks, a nutrition expert, on WOR radio, I learned from him that fluoridation constitutes a great danger because of the toxic substance found in it. Dr. Fredericks is very strongly against fluoridation of our drinking water.

MRS. S. ZERMAN
New York City

(Editor's Note: The article referred to stated that the AFL-CIO "believes that prompt action on fluoridation will cut dental bills, prevent needless pain, and help assure better health for the American people," and pointed to the fact that some 1,500 communities in the United States have found fluoridation to be harmless.)

Proud of Union for Organizing Hospitals

To the Editor:

I have been reading with deep interest articles in The Record concerning the organization of hospital workers in New York City. The wages reported for these people, of $32 and $34 a week, are so fantastically low that many might be inclined to think that your paper is exaggerating. In fact, a fellow member of RWDSU in my local did question these wages. However, I happen to know a hospital worker in Chicago who tells me that the pay here is just as bad.

The organizing work the RWDSU is doing among these hospital workers is something we might all well boast about. This shows the value of unions in a dramatic way—bringing together the most terribly exploited people and helping them to better their conditions.

A word about the directors of these hospitals. They claim to be great humanitarians, and we do know that large sums of money are given by them to the hospitals. Perhaps these philanthropists were kept in the dark about the wages of the people who do the dirty work in the hospitals. But once they are made aware of the conditions, they have an obligation to change them at once—or else stand exposed as hypocrites. The fact is that the real philanthropists in these hospitals are the workers who have been making "contributions" from their pay for so many years.

The RWDSU and Local 1199 in New York deserve great credit for organizing these workers, and all of us in the union are happy that it is our organization that is doing this humanitarian, wonderful job.

T. F. CAULDWELL
Chicago, Ill.

JOHN XXIII

A POPE OF THE PEOPLE

By MAIA RODMAN

In the Vatican, where today the 262nd Pope reigns over some 500 million Roman Catholics, there are many who believe that John XXIII will be another "Working Man's Pope" like Leo XIII, who gave new direction to Catholic thinking on the rights of labor, more than a half-century ago. Into a changing, chaotic world the new Pontiff brings wisdom and compassion, understanding of today's problems, and a great interest in helping the world's poor.

He also brings an informality and earthiness that are in sharp contrast to the reign of his predecessor.

A typical act of the new reign took place early on the morning after Angelo Cardinal Roncalli's election to the Papal throne. The new Pope summoned Count Giuseppe Dalla Torre, editor of the Vatican newspaper "L'Osservatore Romano," and told him to go easy on the adjectives from then on. Under Dalla Torre, a journalist of the old school, the newspaper had acquired the habit of describing the head of the Church in such rhetorical terms as "the most illustrious Sovereign," the "most august Supreme Pontiff," the "most venerable Wearer of the Triple Tiara now gloriously reigning," etc. "From now on, it will be sufficient merely to call me Pope," John XXIII is reported to have told Dalla Torre.

What kind of a man is this new Pope on whose person so much of the world's attention is centered? By all accounts, he is chatty and warm, friendly and casual, endlessly curious, energetic and optimistic. He is a rock of a man whose roots are the soil.

A Pope of Peasant Stock

Pope John himself has said: "In Italy, there are three ways of losing one's money: women, gambling and farming. My father chose the most boring of the three. He became a farmer."

In a village in the Alpine foothills of Northern Italy, one November night in 1881, a few hours after the birth of their first son, the proud parents carried the infant to the tiny parish church of St. John's. They begged the sleepy priest to baptize the baby. That night Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli became a member of the church he would rule one day.

The Roncalli family has been working the vineyards and wheatfields around the village of Sotto il Monte for over 500 years. When news of the election of the new Pontiff reached the village, Angelo's three remaining brothers were eating supper after a hard day's work in the fields. Their excited neighbors poured into the house and the brothers proudly donned their Sunday clothes to celebrate the occasion. Near Milan, his sister was buying bread when the news reached her. "My God, little Angelo!" she gasped. "What's the matter?" asked the baker. "My brother's just been elected Pope. He will have to work so hard," she said, weeping.

"From the time I was born," the Pope once told a friend, "I had never had any thought but to be a country priest." Yet during the 52 years he has spent in the service of the church, he has acquired a rare familiarity with religious, political, social and cultural problems. As a diplomatic trouble-shooter in Eastern Europe and France he is credited with great ability and intelligence, as well as such qualities as gentleness, compassion and geniality.

During World War II as Papal Nuncio in Istanbul, Turkey, he worked closely with the Jewish Agency of Palestine, using all his influence to help European Jews during their darkest hours. Once he prevented the deportation of Slovakian Jews by appealing directly for the intervention of the Pope. Another time, he narrowly averted the deportation of Bulgarian Jews by a telegram which he personally dispatched to influential friends in Sofia.

Throughout his ecclesiastical career his most striking trait (and the most profoundly influential one where non-Catholics were concerned) has been his ability to get along with men of all beliefs. "I have always sought what united, not what divided," Cardinal Roncalli once remarked.

When Cardinal Roncalli was appointed Patriarch of Venice in 1953, in his first sermon from the pulpit of St. Mark's he said: "Do not look upon your Patriarch as a politician, as a diplomat, but find in him a priest."

His door never closed against the steady stream of visitors. Even his antagonists were warmly welcomed. When the Socialist Congress convened in Venice in 1956, he officially greeted them, disregarding the advice of conservatives. He won great admiration of many liberal Venetians for his progressive attitude.

The unorthodox behavior which formerly astonished Venetians is now shaking the rigid foundations of the Vatican. The Holy Father started breaking the "rules" a few minutes after his election as Pope, by abolishing the custom of having the Cardinals kiss the newly-chosen Pontiff's feet. A few hours later, he had this to say in a broadcast to the leaders of the nations:

"Why must the resources of human ingenuity and the wrath of nations be turned more and more to preparation of arms—pernicious instruments of death and destruction—instead of improving the welfare of all classes, particularly the poorer classes?"

Since his coronation four months ago, Pope John has ventured outside the Vatican walls more often than his predecessor did in almost 20 years of his reign. He has visited prisons and hospitals, and he is constantly slipping outside, to the mortification of Vatican officials, to drop in on acquaintances in Rome. In the Vatican gardens, he often pauses during his walks to talk with the workmen and gardeners, learning about their lives and problems. He breaks the "rule" that a Pope must eat alone by inviting friends and relatives to dine with him.

Urges Respect for Human Rights

It is characteristic of Pope John that in his Easter message he urged the leaders of the world to act "not as judges but as guides of the nations . . . to guarantee respect and rights of the human person."

Someone recently said of the new Pontiff: "One of these days, you will hear Pope John announce to the world that the poor must inherit the earth. And he won't mean it in the spiritual sense."

The new Pontiff's most dramatic move has been his decision to convene an Ecumenical Council to discuss the possibility of unity between the Roman Catholic Church and the world's other Christian churches. Ecumenical Councils are rare events in the history of the Catholic Church; only 20 have been held in nearly 2,000 years. In the past 400 years, only two have been convoked, the last one in 1869.

The subject matter of the forthcoming council has given rise to speculation that the Pope would direct his efforts toward bringing back into the Roman Catholic fold the Eastern Orthodox Church, which left it nearly a thousand years ago. There are also hints that Pope John will seek to develop a close working relationship with the Protestant churches of Western Europe and the United States.

But whatever the results of the council, one thing is clear; Pope John, whose election at the age of 76 was regarded as a compromise by the Sacred College of Cardinals as a 'transition" Pope, is going to be one of the best-remembered of all Popes, and his reign already appears destined to be one of the most epochal in the long history of the Papacy.

Packaging of foods has reached new heights in U. S. with growth of supermarkets. Convenience of this type of shopping is spreading to other lands.

retailing around the world

In Israel, much retailing is still done in old-fashioned way from sidewalk stalls. Here an Israeli woman is buying sabras, prickly pears native to that country.

Infinite Variety in Shopping Customs

While Americans are piling cans into a supermarket cart, a French housewife is toting home an octopus for dinner wrapped in a piece of newspaper, a Jordanian mother is bringing home eggs hanging at her chest from a scarf tied to her neck, and a clerk in a Russian village store is ringing up his sale on an abacus, giving change in matches or postage stamps, and pouring the purchased milk into a can brought by the customer!

The ways of the retailing world are a fascinating study. While the whole world seeks a bargain, where and how the bargain is found, priced, packaged and paid for depends on where you live.

Everywhere, advertising brings merchant and customer together. "Mas tiempo por amor" (more time for love) began an ad for a dishwasher in a Spanish newspaper a few years back. On the streets of Dublin, you can still hear modern Molly Malones crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive-o!" as they trundle their wheelbarrows along. In Iron Curtain countries, still plagued by shortages of consumer goods, stores often post placards that describe the day's specials—and tell the customer how many of each he can have. One Buenos Aires street vendor lures prospective buyers with a snake-charming act, gradually switching to a pitch for neckties.

What kinds of stores do the world's shoppers patronize? In many jungle areas and remote Pacific islands, none at all; the customer simply goes to the hut of the man who makes the particular item he wants. The "shopping center" of a Peruvian mountain village is apt to be a public square where farmers and craftsmen spread their wares on blankets.

Parisian Housewife Shops at Dawn

Lacking our huge supermarkets, the thrifty Parisian housewife seeks food buys at dawn, while her American counterpart is still soundly sleeping. Often, to save the francs her neighborhood grocer would tack onto the price, she goes to a pungent, picturesque wholesale market known to Frenchmen as Les Halles and nicknamed "the belly of Paris." In quest of her purchases she weaves her way around crates of cabbages, butchers hefting sides of beef and late revelers wending their way to a nearby bistro for a "breakfast" of onion soup.

Even hardier is the Russian department store shopper. On end-of-the-month sale days, she stands on lines that stretch the length of the store. Fitting rooms have just recently been introduced, and even in Mocow's largest department stores the abacus is more common than the cash-register. To buy, the customer goes through an elaborate ritual that involves getting a bill from the clerk, paying a cashier in another part of the store, presenting the receipt to the clerk who sold him the merchandise in the first place, and finally walking out with his prize.

The wrappings as well as the trappings of sale vary considerably around the globe. The American paper bag, tin can and gift-wrapped package are unknown to many of the world's shoppers. Containers are so scarce in some parts of the world that empty whiskey bottles are an item of commerce. In many parts of the world five-gallon gasoline cans are precious possessions. They are used to carry anything from water and kerosene to exotic flowers and fruits.

American bread is carefully wrapped or packaged. By contrast the French or Italian housewife is apt to be seen toting unwrapped long loaves of bread under her arm. In parts of Cuba, bread is wrapped in palm leaves. Old newspaper is a container for the fish-and-chips snack bought by many an Englishman. In Germany, briefcases double as shopping bags and lunch-boxes.

Haggling is Necessary in Many Lands

How does the customer pay for his purchases? Most of the world's merchandise is sold without a price-tag. Haggling is a lively art (and a livelihood) to a good two-thirds of the earth's population.

Pay an Iranian merchant the first price he asks and he'll hate you; for the rest of the day he'll gnash his teeth in rage at not having quoted you a higher price. Understandably, the same merchant would consider the Western custom of tipping to be sheer insanity. Why pay more than the quoted price? Bargaining is so highly esteemed by the European shopkeeper that he sometimes offers a glass of wine to the customer who gave him a particularly vigorous run for his money. More picturesquely, if less palatably, the Bolivian who receives fresh eggs in a swap is apt to show his appreciation by drinking one of them—to the trader's health.

What to use for money is, in many parts of the world, a weighty problem. In Tahiti, that legendary paradise whose inhabitants live high off the hog, the shopper pays in pigs. On the isle of Yap, where buyers settle their debts with the world's hardest currency—chunks of stone—the natives are amazed to learn that some people actually pay for their purchases with flimsily printed pieces of paper.

Do other shoppers buy on credit? Indeed they do! In the Brazilian jungles a young man who can't pay for his bride in pottery, the customary form of "money" there, can buy her "on time" by working one year for his in-laws.

By HARLAN FISK
for the New Leader

Senate Committee Report Shows How General Motors Manipulates U.S. Economy

A huge, blind, unchained, multi-headed monster—that is the picture drawn of General Motors by the Senate Anti-Trust Committee in its report on administered prices in the auto industry. GM, according to the report, can stagger the economy by its missteps; it overcharges the Federal Government, eats up small suppliers, practices wholesale usury, and sets prices with little, if any concern, for the general welfare.

The Committee's actual recommendation—that the Justice Department investigate the industry to find out whether to try to break up the GM empire—is mild in comparison to the profusion of facts developed by the investigation.

In the first place, GM sets the pattern for a business which directly and indirectly employs one out of every 7 American workers, whose price policies have an enormous effect on the cost of living, and whose wrong guesses can set off an alarming chain of unemployment. The effect of such enormous concentration in the auto industry on the whole economy was explained by the Committee chairman, Senator Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.). He said:

"Years ago, if an auto producer made a mistake—priced his car too high or came out with a design which did not appeal to buyers——the results, while fatal to him, were not necessarily injurious to the industry as a whole, and certainly not to the entire economy. The market which he lost was filled by one or the other of his competitors. Today, however, if the Big Three [GM, Ford, Chrysler] raise their prices unduly or put on the market models which do not attract consumers, or if there is an extended work stoppage because of a labor dispute, there is little alternative to which consumers can turn. They can buy or not buy."

Report Hits GM Hard

Some of the hardest hitting sections of the report are:

Pricing: "The level of automobile prices has come to be largely determined by the pricing methods and policies of GM. In setting prices, GM seeks a target goal of 20 percent of return on net worth after taxes at a pre-determined level of production. . . . As compared to its target of 20 percent, GM's actual rate of return after taxes on net worth during the period 1948-58 averaged 25 percent. . . .

"Generally speaking, studies show that with every 10 percent increase in price, sales tend to fall by 12 to 15 percent. Moreover, there is reason to believe that, during an economic downswing, the adverse effect of a price increase is even greater. It has also been shown that price reductions are capable of stimulating auto sales. . . . The full effect of price increases is now for the first time in several years coming home to the auto buyer. In the preceding four years price increases were more or less camouflaged by more liberal financing terms, principally the extension of the maturity period. To buyers whose chief interest is the amount of the monthly payment, the price increase was to a very considerable extent offset by the increase in the number of months in which to make payments. But now, according to the consensus of the trade, the maturity period can no longer be extended. So any further increase can be immediately reflected in the average monthly payment.

"The method used by GM to set its auto prices is basically that of public utility. . . . GM possesses much of the economic power of a public utility, but is free from governmental oversight. The utility is limited in its pricing policy to the recovery of its cost and a fair return on its capital. GM is free to secure the maximum attainable return."

UAW President Walter Reuther commented: "As soon as GM announced higher prices, Ford revised their prices upward in line with GM. This is the first time in the history of a free enterprise economy where a company raised the price of their products in order to become competitive. They raised their prices to be competitive—why? Because prices in the auto industry are set by GM."

The Size and Shape of GM: The world's largest corporation, with 1957 sales of $11 billion, selling half the new cars today, is the result of corporate cannibalism which began soon after the turn of the century, the intervention of DuPont, expansion into a variety of lines, and heavy Government patronage.

The big initial spurt of GM began after DuPont put up $50 million in 1918 and 1919 and took over fiscal control. In 1926, at a time when DuPont controlled a fourth of GM's common stock, the chemical company sold 9 percent of its total sales to the auto company, a classic example of log-rolling in industry.

The many-headed shape of the giant is indicated in an ironic comment by Committee Counsel Paul Rand Dixon. Picturing a young Army captain, Dixon said:

"We will say he awakened this morning and he had been sleeping between sheets that were washed, dried and ironed by GM equipment. He took a shower that was produced by GM hot water. He had breakfast on bacon kept in a GM refrigerator, cooked on a GM stove. His home was heated by a GM furnace. He got in an auto made by GM. He even had a cigarette lighter on the car produced by GM. The car is his own now, but the purchase was financed by one of its subsidiaries and he was insured by another one. He boarded a train pulled by a GM diesel and was transported down to ordnance depot by a GM bus. During the day he inspected a cannon made by GM and, if it was a tank, that, too, was made by them. If he were sent to another city, he might travel in a plane with a GM motor in it. If he goes to a movie, he will enjoy air conditioning also made by GM. If he happens to be ordered to sea, he would use an entirely different set of GM motor equipment, because they make diesels and motors that go into these gigantic ships. If he rode a bicycle, it was equipped with a brake made by GM."

GM's invasion of conglomerate fields and the production by GM of component parts have cut deeply into small and independent businesses. The report says:

"In the early days of the industry, auto components were purchased in the open market and created a thriving source of business for a multitude of independent suppliers. As GM and other large companies became more integrated, this avenue of activity for independents has gradually become narrowed. When Harlow Curtice, president of GM, protested that the 'majority of those items are for our own consumption,' Senator Kefauver asked: 'But when you produce them yourself, of course, you do not buy them from somebody else?' Mr. Curtice: 'That is true.' Senator Kefauver: 'That cuts down what you have to buy from somebody else.' . . . GM's large scale invasion of the parts field has had far-reaching consequences in limiting the available market for outsiders."

The report also points out: "GM requires its dealers to use GM parts."

Defense Contracts: During World War II and most of the time since, GM has been the No. 1 recipient of prime contract awards. This position "has been a great source of power to GM. With such contracts the manufacturer is in a better position to so organize his productive facilities to keep his plant in operation at its most efficient rate and at the lowest possible cost. If he makes use only of existent facilities, the large contract helps to keep his plant going during normal slack periods; the mere fact that his equipment and labor are kept busy during these periods has a salutary effect upon unit costs over the entire year. . . . There are no financial risks involved. The cost of such items as bad debts and poor collections is nonexistent. The typical private buyer is probably more interested in keeping costs down than the Government. Not only are procurement officials of the Government under less of a compulsion to buy at the lowest possible price, but they are often inadequately trained. The zealousness of military officialdom is certainly not heightened by the practice of leaving the service to accept high paid positions in private industry. The Government contracting official may be under greater pressure to exchange price for time than his counterpart in industry. . ."

Huge Profits on Defense

The Committee traced a number of investigations which indicated that GM was not above getting anything the traffic would bear from defense contracts. In one case, the General Accounting Office testified that, on an airplane contract, GM made a profit of 18.7 percent on 528 planes. The GAO in an account of a Navy contract for diesel engines and parts claimed that GM prices were "substantially higher than reasonable."

For the past three years, when the Defense Department made public research grants, GM was shown to be far ahead of its competitors. For example, in 1957, GM had awards valued at $56.6 million, Chrysler at $17.8 million and Ford at $1.3 million.

Auto Financing: GM's finance agency is, of course, the General Motors Acceptance Corporation, which, the report says, charges approximately 11.2 percent a year.

Control over Raw Material Supplies: Without alleging that GM has attempted to monopolize raw materials in the sense of cornering them, the auto manufacturing company may have misused its power by either attempting to monopolize new production, through its financial plans and devices, or by coercion of suppliers to whom it held out the bait of its large market. During the period of short supply from 1946 until 1954, GM used its giant buying power to its advantage and to the detriment of its competitors.

"As a result of its favorable supply situation, GM was able to take the lead in the enormously expanding auto industry after the war. And, when, during the 1950 coal strike, Chrysler closed and Ford and Packard were shutting down, GM appeared to be in a fortunate spot as far as coal and supplies were concerned."

Brain Twisters for Twisted Brains

By JANE GOODSELL

Some people—and I am one of them—are convinced that the sum of two plus two depends on what you are adding. Two of what?

Here are a few brain twisters for twisted brains:

Problem: A man awakens at 7:45, and realizes that the alarm clock failed to go off. He has exactly 11 minutes in which to catch his bus. If he shaves in 4½ minutes, dresses in 3 minutes, spends 1½ minutes explaining to his wife why he hasn't time to eat breakfact, and sprints two blocks to the bus stop in 1½ minutes, can he make it?

Answer: No. On a morning like this, the bus is always 2 minutes and 10 seconds ahead of schedule.

Problem: A newly-wedded pair plans to start their family when their savings total $1.000. Their present rate of saving is $42 a month. When will they be able to afford a baby?

Answer: About the time their second grandchild is born.

* * *

Problem: A child, getting an allowance of 50 cents a week, saves every penny of it to buy a bicycle costing $34.95. How long will it take him?

Answer: About six weeks. By that time his parents or his grandparents will take pity on the poor little lad.

Record Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

Problem: If your new car has a 500-mile warranty on defective parts, and you drive an average of 17 miles a day, when will your warranty run out?

Answer: The day before the motor develops a funny knock.

* * *

Problem: A high school student arrives from school at 4 p.m. with three hours of homework to do. Eating dinner takes half an hour. He spends one hour watching television, and 40 minutes talking on the phone. How much time do all these activities total?

Answer: It is impossible to answer this question. Under certain conditions, a youngster can do three hours of homework in 20 minutes.

* * *

Problem: If each person requires three square feet of floor space, how many people can you get into a room of 14x20 dimensions?

Answer: If you're the type who worries about this sort of thing, you'd better give up the whole idea of having a party.

* * *

Problem: A boy buys four goldfish. Two of them die, and he buys twice as many goldfish as he had in the first place. One-fifth of the total number of goldfish he has bought die, so he adds to them a number equivalent to 3 times the square root of the lowest number of goldfish he has possessed at any time. How many goldfish does he now have?

Answer: That boy is overfeeding those fish.

Problem: Family A and Family B rent a beach house together during the month of August. In Family A, each son has twice as many sisters as he has brothers, and each daughter has the same number of brothers as sisters. In Family B, there are three daughters, and each daughter has a brother. How many children are there in both families?

Answer: Too many for the bathroom situation in that beach house.

Chaos in Car Insurance As Rates Jump 72%; Some Steps You Can Take

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

In the past year 2 states have increased auto insurance rates, typically 15 percent, in some cases for the ninth time in the last 12 years. Increases are under consideration in other states. In general, the cost of insuring a car has jumped 72 percent in the past ten years compared to a 31 percent increase in the price of cars themselves, and an average rise for all goods and services of 24 percent. In many metropolitan areas, owners now pay $100 to $200 a year for insurance, and families with young drivers as much as $$400 in the largest cities.

Yet even with these steep rates, it has become difficult for car owners in some large cities to get auto insurance at all. Insurers have clamped down in New York, for example, to the extent that often drivers who have had a minor accident—even if not their fault—or a traffic violation, must go into the "assigned-risk" pool. In that event, they often pay 35 percent more than even the high standard rates. In effect, the insurance companies are on strike.

In many cases, car owners are being pressured into buying other types, such as household fire insurance, to get auto insurance.

In New York and Massachusetts, where further boosts were denied in recent years by the state insurance departments, the companies went to court to compel increases. In New York, after the previous administration of Governor Harriman had denied a requested rate increase as excessive and premature, auto insurance even became a political issue. Agents formed an "Insurance Agents for Rockefeller" committee to help defeat Harriman for re-election.

In general, insurance companies blame the present chaos in metropolitan areas on the increase in accidents, high jury awards, high repair costs, increased hospitalization costs and steep attorney and doctor fees.

For example, it costs $100 and up to replace a shattered windshield in a modern car. One authority points out that it cost only $10 to replace a smashed fender in a 1949 car, but a fender replacement on a modern car requires a whole new quarter panel for about $160.

Less Accidents Per Car

Some of these arguments are true, but not the claim that increased accidents are a major cause. There were ten million accidents in 1957 compared to eight million in '39. But the number of cars has more than doubled—from 30 million in '39 to 66 million in '57. Thus there now actually are fewer accidents **per car.**

Two reasons for the climbing rates, and the difficulty many motorists have in getting insurance at all, are not publicized by the companies. One is the big cut of the insurance dollar they demand for selling and administration expenses, and profit. They want 40-50 cents of every premium dollar for themselves, and expect to pay out in claims only 50-60 cents. Even in claiming a loss in New York State recently, the stock companies actually paid out only 70 cents of every dollar they took in. Many mutual insurance companies manage to stay in the black on similar ratios without crying loss.

Also, while the insurance companies complain about high repair costs, they themselves have contributed by condoning exaggerated claims. Automotive writer Joseph Ingraham reports that an estimated 25-40 percent of all repair bills paid by insurance companies consists of bribes, secret commissions and padded charges. It was profitable for the insurance industry to condone exaggerated claims as long as they could charge another dollar in premiums for every 50 cents more they paid out.

Furthermore, the losses the insurance companies claim in support of rate increases are in part only "underwriting losses," and do not include their investment profits from their reserves.

At the same time, the insurance industry, especially the stock companies and agents associations and some state insurance departments, are hampering efforts to introduce economy methods which would keep down insurance costs. One of the most promising is group auto insurance, in which labor unions are pioneering. Group purchases of life and hospitalization insurance have cut costs enormously. Some Blue Cross plans operate on less than ten cents of the premium dollar compared to the 40-50 cents the auto insurors demand.

But efforts to secure group auto insurance by some unions on Long Island in New York State have been hindered so far by a rule of the State Insurance Department that insurors can't give a reduction except when vehicles have common ownership, as in the case of fleets.

Effort To Stop Allstate's Low Rates

One of the most shocking attempts to stop competition occurred in New York. The state assembly passed a bill aimed directly at Allstate Insurance Co., a leading rate-cutter and a subsidiary of Sears Roebuck. It would have banned mail-order companies or department stores, like Sears stores, from selling auto insurance. The bill was killed by the state senate.

Several assemblymen backing the bill charged that Allstate refused to "cooperate" in settling liability claims and tended to force disputes into court for settlement. Actually, the State Insurance Department informs this writer that Allstate had no record of refusals to settle claims that would require disciplinary action.

Until group insurance is available or the states themselves provide auto insurance, as does the Province of Sasketchewan in Canada, we advise:

(1) Concentrating on liability insurance rather than collision coverage, since a liability suit is your greater danger, and non-reimbursed damage to your own car collision is tax-deductible anyway; (2) Shopping for lowest rates in your area and your particular classification among mutuals and other rate-cutters whoo give savings to drivers with good safety records, such as Factory Mutual of Providence, R.I., Government Employees Insurance Co., State Farm, Nationwide, Allstate, Safeco, Lumbermen's and its affiliated companies, your local auto club and others; (3) Making sure you get proper classification and a reasonable rate if you buy through a car dealer or finance company—they have been known to charge buyers the rate for higher classifications than necessary; (4) Driving with great care and avoiding small nuisance claims or exaggerated claims, since it's getting costlier and harder to get insurance at all.

lighter side of the record

Middle Age

Middle age is that point reached in life when you use all the new wrinkles you can find to get rid of the old ones.

• • •

Still Life

At home with the family
We talk when we're eating
As if we're conducting
A busy Town Meeting.
But let us dine out
As an old married twosome,
The silence pervading,
Our table is gruesome.

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Hard Bargain

A bustling, authoritative middle-aged housewife entered a used furniture store and asked the manager: "That old table you have out there—how much do you want for it?"

The manager recalled that he had been trying to get rid of it for months, and said quickly: "I'll tell you, Mrs. Jones, if you want the table, I'll just give it to you." The lady nodded affirmatively, walked to the front of the store where the table stood, surveyed it a moment, lifted it to test its weight, then walked briskly back to the manager. "Listen," she said earnestly, "will you deliver it for me at that price?"

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Candid Comment

When people look at a baby and say "What an attractive child," it just means they can't tell if it's a boy or a girl and are too scared to ask.

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Military Maxim

"If it moves, salute it. If it doesn't move, pick it up. If you can't pick it up, paint it."

The Boss Is Disturbed

Then there's the story about the psychiatrist who died and went to Heaven. He was greeted by St. Peter who asked him what he did on Earth. The doctor told him. "Come in, come in, said St. Peter, "we certainly need you." The doctor looked puzzled and asked: "you mean to say there's someone in Heaven who needs psychiatric treatment; who could it be?" "It's the Boss," said St. Peter. "He thinks He's Lyndon Johnson."

• • •

Peace And War

Historian B. A. Botkin has unearthed this authentic letter sent from the European front in World War II by a Kentucky mountaineer to his wife back home: "Dear Nancy, I bin gittin yore naggin letters all along and im darn sick of them. For the first time Im fightin in a real first class war and I want you to let me enjoy it in peace while it lasts. Yores, etc."

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Fall

Conversation in a London pub: "How did Bill die?"
"'E fell through some scaffolding."
"Whatever was 'e doing up there?"
"Being 'anged."

• • •

Much Obliged, Podner

When a Princeton graduate inherited a cattle ranch out West, he discovered that an ornery galoot on the adjoining property was rustling his stock. "Be careful," he was warned. "That old crook is liable to drill a coupla holes in your hide."

So this is the warning note the Princeton grad finally mailed to his neighbor: "I would be deeply obliged if you would stop leaving your hot irons out where my fool cattle can sit down on them."

Out Quizzed

Just before the demise of the TV quiz shows, a story came to our attention which we feel bears repeating. A lady was asked to name a state in the union beginning with the letter V. She thought for a moment, then shook her head helplessly.

"Oh, come now, think!" insisted the quizmaster.

There was another period of deep concentration, but all to no avail.

"Don't give up yet!" cried the quizmaster. "V as in Ver . . ."

"Of course!" shouted the lady triumphantly. "Vermouth!"

• • •

Simple Deduction

The well-heeled headwaiter from an expensive restaurant took his young son to the zoo one Sunday, and the two watched the lions being fed.

"That wasn't very polite," criticized the boy. "Why doesn't he serve nicely the way you do to your customers?"

"Confidentially," whispered the father, "lions are rotten tippers."

• • •

Just In Pun

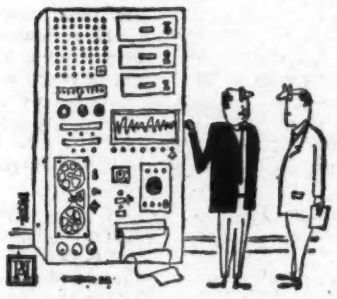
They say that what Christopher Columbus really told Queen Isabella when he got home from his American tour was: "Well, I bet I'm the first man who ever got nineteen hundred miles on a galleon."

• • •

Hindsight

"If you had your life to live over," the prominent octogenarian was asked by reporters, "do you think you'd make the same mistakes again?"

"Certainly," said the old man, smiling reminiscently, "but I'd start sooner."



"This machine will take the place of 25 robots . . ."

SUITED CURVES: We're in a quandary. Is the outfit she wears in Warner's "Born Reckless" setting off Mamie Van Doren's curves, or is she making the suit look good?

That sea of raised hands is response of Local 1-S members to call for "aye" votes on proposed contract with R. H. Macy, world's largest dept. store.

R. H. MACY SETTLES

Old Macy contract with new setlement terms writte n in is held aloft by '1-S' attorney Asher Schwartz as Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and Vice-Presidents Bill A tkinson and Phil Hoffstein show their pleasure over happy conclusion to long negotiations.

A settlement which came a full day after the expiration of the union contract with R. H. Macy & Co. was ratified by a near-uanimous vote of some 7,000 members of Local 1-S on Wednesday evening, April 1. A fraction of the nearly 5,000 who jammed Manhattan Center are shown above; another overflow meeting was held at the New York Trade Show building a few blocks away.

Those attending the meeting, constituting an overwhelming majority of the 8,000 Macy employees, waited patiently for several hours while union negotiators were meeting with management to thrash out the last details of the settlement. Their patience was rewarded, for the committee came back with an acceptable offer, thus averting a repetition of the situation three years ago when a 13-day strike took place.

The new contract provides wage increases of $5 per week—$3 now, retroactive to the contract anniversary date of Jan. 31, and another $2 next January; increases of $8 in minimum hiring rates; improvements in health, welfare and pension benefits; changes in contract language affecting seniority, job security and other important clauses. For full details, see story on Page 5.

Point-by-point review of contract changes embodied in management offer is conducted by attorney Asher Schwartz, standing right, at meeting of "1-S' negotiating committee on April 1. At table with Schwartz are Pres. Sam Kovenetsky and Recording Sec. Deby Valencia.